



## Independent Scientific Review Panel Retrospective Report 1997 - 2005

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- [Executive Summary only](#) (160k PDF)
- [Appendix: The Evolution of Scientific Review in the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program](#) (700k PDF)
- [Presentation to Council](#) (2.8m PDF)
- [Important Update of Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation Section of the Retrospective Report: Study Designs for Research, Monitoring and Evaluation](#)
- **Dec 12, 2005 correction**

In the report's appendix, page 105, the second sentence of following statement is deleted: "Many dams that block salmon from historical habitat in tributaries are non-Federal projects such as the Hells Canyon complex in the Snake River. ~~The Fish and Wildlife Program does not have mitigation responsibility for those projects.~~" The Power Act directs the Council to call for recommendations and adopt a program "to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife, including related spawning grounds and habitat, affected by the development and operation of any hydroelectric project on the Columbia River and its tributaries." See 4(h)(2), emphasis added. That the program is to mitigate for the effects of any hydro facility -- non-federal as well as federal -- is further established by the corresponding obligation of the federal agencies toward the program in Section 4(h)(11)(A): "The Administrator and other Federal agencies responsible for managing, operating, or regulating Federal or non-Federal hydroelectric facilities located on the Columbia River or its tributaries shall . . . (ii) exercise such responsibilities, taking into account at each relevant stage of decisionmaking processes to the fullest extent practicable, the program adopted by the Council under this subsection. . . ."

This report satisfies a provision of the 1996 Amendment to the 1980 Northwest Power Act, which charges the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) to provide a retrospective report of the results of prior-year expenditures to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. The scope of past ISRP reviews has for the most part been limited to specific projects. With this report the ISRP enlarges the perspective and evaluates the cumulative effect of our reviews on program accountability, project effectiveness, and scientific soundness. The ISRP hopes that this report sets the stage for successive retrospective reviews that examine measurable benefits to fish and wildlife and provide biological information for the Council's evaluation of Fish and Wildlife Program expenditures and effectiveness.

This report has two major sections. The first section discusses the ISRP review process from 1997 through 2005 and its results. The second section covers major programmatic themes including, in order: research, monitoring and evaluation (RM&E); habitat and passage in the mainstem Columbia River (including white sturgeon, lamprey and exotic species); tributary habitat; wildlife; artificial production; and the ocean and estuary. The report also includes an appendix that describes the development of the peer review process in greater detail than the main report.